

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1914.

A WORTH-WHILE GIFT—You can make your friends happy every day in the year by sending them a subscription to THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH.

Appeal Granted to Leo M. Frank

THE whole country will feel satisfaction that an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States has been allowed Leo M. Frank, the Atlanta man now under sentence of death for the murder of Mary Phagan.

There are two opinions of Frank's guilt, but we believe that outside of Atlanta there is little dissent from the proposition that he was not allowed a fair trial under those safeguards the law guarantees to the humblest person accused of crime.

That question, at any rate, now is to be passed on by the highest court in the land. The country will feel satisfied with its finding. Whatever the result, it will quiet the unhappy and almost universal feeling that an innocent man may be on his way to the gallows as the result of popular clamor, inspired by the commission of an atrocious murder.

Give While the Need Is Greatest

BITTERLY cold weather, snow-covered streets and houses without adequate heat have added immeasurably to the suffering of Richmond's poor in the last few days. Coal or wood in many cases is necessary not only to provide scantiest comfort, but for the preservation of health and life.

There are weak and ill women, babies and little children in the habitations of the poor. They are wretchedly clad, wretchedly fed, un-equipped in any respect to resist the attacks of winter's icy blasts.

The Associated Charities labors with unflagging zeal in their behalf. There is no lack of individual, personal effort, but money is needed to provide food and clothing and fuel. Every subscription, no matter how small, will help. If every man and woman in Richmond who could afford to give a single dollar would do so, the whole problem would be solved. The Times-Dispatch will receive such subscriptions gladly, and they will be applied, without reduction for the payment of salaries or other expenses, to the relief of suffering.

Don't wait any longer, for time speeds and the need is great. Give what you can afford to give, be it little or much, but give now. You may save a life.

Searching for Contraband

A COTTON shipment, New York to Bremen, was the other day inspected by X-ray to make sure that no contraband was concealed in the bales, scale weight being not sufficient security. Obviously, to unbalance the cotton, inspect and rebale would be out of the question, hence the X-rays.

Modern war may develop the necessity of scientific inspection of such sealed packages as cotton bales in ways other than the X-ray. For instance, would it not be practical to apply powerful magnets to cotton bales to ascertain whether any metal might be concealed? How about working out some chemical which, applied to the outside of the bale, would show an instant reaction if anything other than vegetable product were present?

Putting all jokes aside—if the above suggestions could possibly be considered frivolous—wouldn't it be better, after all, to turn the raw cotton into garments plainly stamped "Made in America," and ship them as other garments are shipped, which would make inspection easier than in the bale? Cotton needed in the raw might be baled under government supervision and stamped. The finished product idea, however, is a good one. Europe is waiting for us to grab her wasted trade, and cotton might lead the way.

The Allies Gain a Convert

DR. NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS is easily among the foremost clergymen in the United States. He occupies the pulpit of Plymouth Church, in Brooklyn, N. Y., the same Plymouth Church in which congregations were swayed by the eloquence of Henry Ward Beecher. Besides being a celebrated divine, Dr. Hillis is a frequent lecturer of note. For years he has been telling his hearers of the virtues of Germany, how and why Americans should emulate German methods, and was in every way an outspoken admirer of German culture and efficiency. At the outset of the war Dr. Hillis publicly espoused the Teuton cause, and added a lecture on "The New Germany" to his lecture list.

But in the months that have passed since Dr. Hillis has studied the rights and wrongs of the quarrel, and, with a courage that merits the highest praise, has confessed from his pulpit that he was mistaken. He has now come to the conclusion, which has been reached by so many other Americans, that a Teutonic victory would mean a world of armed camps. He holds that Germany must be vanquished or America itself will have to adopt militarism "in order to live." He has

withdrawn "The New Germany" from his lecture list, and is now meeting the onslaught of his enraged German-American parishioners. He is trying to soothe them by saying that they owe it to their adopted country to tell the folks at home that they are most terribly in the wrong, and should mend their ways.

It is at least possible that other pro-Germans in this country have changed their views in the light of the information that has become available since the beginning of August, but Dr. Hillis is the only man of name who has had the courage to come forward and make a public recantation.

Who knows but that a large number of so-called German-Americans wish to see Prussian militarism crushed? The fact that they are silent does not prove their nonexistence.

We doubt, however, whether appeals from this side would have any effect in Germany. Few observers will be able to join with Dr. Hillis in thinking that the war can be ended in any other way than by the fall of what Emperor William stands for, even as a century ago war endured year upon year until at last Napoleon was pulled down.

Partial Segregation Best Tax Plan

WHETHER or not division of the subjects of taxation, between the State, on the one hand, and counties and cities, on the other, represents the final and scientific solution of the problem that the General Assembly has been called to solve, The Times-Dispatch believes that the plan of partial segregation, urged by a minority of the Tax Commission, is not only the best Virginia is likely to get, but the best that reasonably can be expected at this stage of our political development.

The ideal system is that which requires every class of property taxed at all to contribute a proportionately equal amount to the expenses of government. Complete attainment of the ideal is impossible, of course, nor is it perceived how it is to be substantially approached by adoption of the plan for a Tax Commission, recommended by a majority of the committee.

The committee rightly finds that the inequality of assessments of real estate and tangible personal property is a bar to all satisfactory reform, unless this inequality can be removed. How is removal to be effected? The majority makes these suggestions, and these only, toward the remedy sought:

1. That the commissioners of the revenue serve as assessors of real estate, as well as of personal property.
2. That there should be not more than one commissioner of the revenue in any county or city.
3. That commissioners of the revenue be furnished with certain material helps, not heretofore available, such as more specific transcripts from records of transfers of real estate and tax maps.
4. County and city boards of equalization be increased in number.
5. A State Tax Commission.

The first three of these suggestions wholly, and the last two less directly, are designed to aid in having assessments "made right in the first place," which the committee agrees is of vital necessity. "So far as we have been able to discover," says the committee report, "no effective agency has ever yet been devised in any State for equalizing assessments after the assessors' rolls have once been made out."

However, commissioners of the revenue have assessed personal property in the past. The report, discussing assessments of tangible personal property, says: "Excessive inequalities abound, both among the localities and among individuals within the same locality. There is also a marked undervaluation everywhere, though it is slightly less than in the case of real estate." All that can be hoped for from this reform is a slight decrease in inequalities among individuals within the city and county units. "The same thing is true of the second and third suggestions. All are helpful, doubtless, but they do not even touch the basic and fundamental criticism of existing conditions—that they are unjust and inequitable as among individuals and corporations in different parts of the State. The city and county boards of equalization might repair injustice within the cities and counties, or try to do it, but they would not affect and could not alter the present intolerable grievance.

What remains? The State Board of Equalization, which is to be called the State Tax Commission. The committee's endorsement of the creation of this commission is somewhat weakened by its prior statement that "it appears to us that the only trustworthy safeguard of the public welfare is to have assessments made right in the first place," and the further fact that it does not propose to give the Tax Commission the power to change assessments made by the local assessors. Power is to be limited to mere administrative help before the assessment rolls are made out. Doubtless such assistance would be valuable, but it is impossible to believe that those weaknesses of human nature which result now in inequitable and variable assessments would be removed by the supervisory influence of a State commission, functioning in the manner the committee recommends.

The policy of partial segregation, not faultless, certainly, and subject perhaps to some grave objections, is preferable. It will not take from the counties and cities any revenue they now receive except the tax on intangible personal property, on premiums of insurance companies and on rolling stock of railroads. Its adoption will free communities from the temptation to undervalue property for purposes of tax assessment, because citizens will understand that all the revenue so derived will be spent within the community. It will clear the way for many imperatively needed reforms in tax laws, which should be attempted at the coming special session of the General Assembly.

Talk about busy ladies! There's one in Chicago! She's a beauty doctor, she's thirty-nine years old; she's a grandmother, and she has a bullet in her gizzard, placed there by a woman whose husband she "bewitched." Jimminy, wait till she is forty-five!

London paper refers to the Scarborough episode as the "Battle of the Bathhouses." Sh-h, brother! Lese majeste. Better call it "Another heroic feat by my glorious navy."

Probably the trouble is that the Russians don't read German. Otherwise they'd know from Berlin's official reports that they have been annihilated.

The Holler-than-Holly Hollers are now out under the name of Leaping Bounders. Strange how religious frenzy affects some people.

Benny Zapata has original ways of welcoming his first chief. He sent a "wild locomotive" to greet Carranza's train.

What will be Germany's answer to the protest of Chile? Go ahead, Brighteyes; saucy is right!

SONGS AND SAWS

Following an Example.
Little clanny drops of sleet
Falling on the snowy street,
So you feel it's up to you
To sweep them off your shoes.
But you pick, to your dismay,
The hardest spot on all your way.
And no soft bed of fleecy snow
Is there to mitigate the blow.

The Pessimist Says:
The streets and sidewalks are in fine shape now.
If I just had a pair of ice skates and knew how to use them, I could get down to the office in the morning without any trouble at all.

Economical, Too.
She—Don't you think the muffs that are being worn this winter are just too cute and chic for anything?
He—I certainly do. They ought to be inexpensive also, for they are made of very costly furs that can't represent an investment of more than 75 cents.

Perfect Strategy.
"Congressman Wiseman is making a perfect record at Washington this winter."
"How is that?"
"Why, he has been able to arrange his illness so imperatively as to return home so that he has not had to vote on a single question as to the wisdom or morality of which his constituents are divided."

The Last Word.
Grabus—Your friend Jones is a very determined person, is he not?
Stubbs—I should say he is. Why, when Jones makes up his mind to do a thing, he does it, even if it results in the cook leaving in the middle of the week.

No Change.
Making resolutions
With all our might and main
Just as sure as ever
We shall see perfection gain—
Say, folks, you and I give
Me a dreadful pain.

THE TATTLER.

Chats With Virginia Editors

Says the Halifax Record-Advertiser: "The Richmond Times-Dispatch is opposed to spelling it 'Xmas,' and so we are. It has never appeared in this paper spelled with an X." The man who originally put the X in Christmas probably employed it also as his legal signature.

This adjuration from the Bristol Herald-Courier: "You are still at liberty to put Red Cross seals on your letters. Keep it up until including New Year's Day." The great white plague knows no holiday.

Editor Morgan, of the Northern Neck News, published at Warsaw, rises to remark: "There is no more remarkable city in this country, or, for that matter, in the world, than the city of Newport News, situated in this First Congressional District of Virginia. The red-headed editor of the Newport News Press will second the motion. But what's the matter with Warsaw?"

The Northampton Times protests against a riotous ushering in of the New Year, saying: "We very earnestly hope our worthy Mayor will observe the commendable precedent he established last year of forbidding the midnight outbreak customary in some localities on New Year's Eve." The Times advocates putting the ban upon bells, whistles and fireworks and keeping the explosives on the other side of the Atlantic.

"A New Jersey man found eighteen pearls—six of which are worth from \$60 to \$300 each, in an oyster cocktail. The oyster must have come from Hampton Roads," says the Newport News Press. Shipping 'em to Jersey seems like casting pearls before the unappreciative.

Current Editorial Comment

Germany Tries to Win Italy
For the past fortnight Prince von Bulow, ex-Chancellor of the German empire, has been busily engaged in Rome, where he is persona grata. Rumor has credited him with being the bearer of a compromise proposition designed to keep Italy neutral. It has even been said that he is commissioned to buy peace at the price of the cession of a portion of the Trentino. Such may be the father to the thought with Italian newsmongers at the present time, but evidently von Bulow is charged with a special mission. One of the kind and order of the mission is to great prestige and great popularity. It is beyond the scope of plausibility to conjecture that the Italian occupation of the Albanian port of Avlona is the outcome of von Bulow's special assignment. It would be characteristic of his shrewdness to license a movement which, while it gratified Italian pride, would not embarrass the German-Austrian alliance. An Italian invasion of the Trentino would be disastrous to both Germany and Austria, even if it failed; but Berlin may be indifferent to the fate of Avlona, and Austria is not in a position to take on another antagonist on a question so far off from the main issue of the hour. The Avlona episode is the latest in a series of statements at Rome could say with truth that had garnered some golden sheaves with little or no fighting. Strategically, too, they would strengthen Italy by dominating Albania, for the Adriatic command both shores of the Strait of Otranto, the Adriatic from the greater sea, Austria would then, at Trieste and Plume, be commercially under Italy's padlock.—Boston Transcript.

The unanimous sentiment of a convention of county officials in Oregon that the eugenic marriage law of that State, requiring a physical examination of all male applicants for licenses, has proved harmful but another reminder of the action that has set in among the Oregonians from the fever of faddism which has been kindled there. The benefits that were promised by the advocates of the law did not materialize. Such certificates as were filed represented in the majority of cases only a formal compliance with the law. Evasions were encouraged, and the law did not do more thorough testing and consideration for such as are enacted.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

After all the depression that has been prevalent for a year, and especially during the year, the Bankers' Magazine is making a bold move to Richmond.

The present Bankers' Magazine is making a bold move to Richmond. It is a bold move, for the magazine has been for some time in the hands of the Bankers' Magazine Company, which is a company of the Bankers' Magazine Company. It is a bold move, for the magazine has been for some time in the hands of the Bankers' Magazine Company, which is a company of the Bankers' Magazine Company. It is a bold move, for the magazine has been for some time in the hands of the Bankers' Magazine Company, which is a company of the Bankers' Magazine Company.

ably declare a dividend, unless it is deferred. Even as it is, The Times-Dispatch says the dividend is to be paid at the beginning of the year. It is a dividend of a few hundred dollars, that paid about January 1st a year ago. Evidently, says that paper, the depression has had no serious effect on the city's financial institutions. They have earned substantially their accustomed dividends. The probability is that the country as a whole will make a showing equally as satisfactory, except in banking circles where figures are juggled. As to Richmond, however, our contemporary breaks it off in calamity howlers in these crisp words: "Here is enough to make the pessimist ashamed of himself and give the optimist renewed confidence in the city's enduring prosperity."—Wilmington Star.

Mayor Woodward, of Atlanta, announces his purpose to inaugurate in the coming year sweeping salary reforms and the absolute abolishment of some city jobs which he characterizes as "political sinecures." He declares the city's pay roll is overbalanced by more than \$100,000. Salary reduction will be general, the idea being to get compensation down to a basis commensurate with the responsibilities attached to the jobs. Atlanta, like other growing and prosperous cities of the South, has witnessed during the past few years tremendous municipal development. High salaries have become common, and many unnecessary offices have been created. And no doubt Atlanta finds now a large unemployed army within her limits that needs work with the city's ability to give relief, greatly restricted for lack of revenues. This may be said to be a general condition in all American cities of Texas. Houston, among them, with all the progress made during recent years in municipal administration, no remedy has been found for municipal extravagance, and the pressure is now being felt, not only in the matter of exhausted revenues, but in the usual demand for work and the complaints of the taxpayers.—Houston Post.

War News Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 29, 1864.)
The lines below Richmond remain entirely quiet. The Federals have been doing no gunning of any consequence since they wasted so much powder and shot in celebrating, or pretending to celebrate, the so-called fall of Savannah.

Because of the demoralized condition of the telegraph lines, due to the continued storms, there is nothing later from the fight near Gordonsville than the brief dispatch of General Lee, under date of the 24th, which dispatch announced the discomfiture and retreat of both Custer and Torbet, and the arrival of the Federal troops at various points. The Federals have undertaken the joint raid through Madison and other counties. If Generals Rosser and Lomax have encountered these Federal raiders since then, we have no information of the same.

From Southwest Virginia there is no news, the telegraph and railroad line having been cut in many places by the Federals and their raiding expeditions. It is understood, however, that beyond the disabling of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroads at various points over a distance of some seventy miles there has been done no considerable damage, and it is believed that the raiders, after several defeats, are now beyond the boundaries of Virginia.

From Wilmington comes the good news of officially reported that General Bragg that the enemy has re-embarked under cover of the fleet, thus abandoning, for the present at least, the bitter attack on Fort Fisher. He reports that the damage at Fort Fisher was slight, only two guns being disabled, and less than a half a dozen killed and wounded, although the bombardment was very heavy.

The latest official advice from Georgia indicates that Sherman has already followed up the occupation of Savannah by sending a force of cavalry and infantry upon an expedition whose destination can only be guessed at from the direction in which it has moved. From these indications it is believed that they Federal prisoners supposed to be at Andersonville, Ga.

General Hood's official dispatch is said to be in the hands of the officials of the Confederate War Department, but of its contents nothing certain is known outside. However, the last certain and reliable information about Hood is to the effect that he is trying to rally his army at Columbia, Tenn. It is said that he brought seventy pieces of artillery from the Nashville stock, and in that foolish fight he lost not quite so many pieces as he did. Perhaps the remnant of his army could yet be made efficient under a more capable commander.

Up to yesterday over 4,000 turkeys, geese, chickens and ducks had been contributed for the occupation of soldiers' New Year dinner, and they were all ready to be cooked in the department of the Ballard House, where all of the picking and preparing and cooking will be done.

From Wilmington, General Braxton Bragg reports the following: Major-General Whiting, commanding the defenses of the mouth of the Cape Fear River; Colonel William Lamb, commanding Fort Fisher, and the officers and men composing the garrison deserve especial mention for the gallantry, efficiency and fortitude displayed under very trying circumstances.

Queries and Answers

Nobel Prize.
Please tell me what the Nobel prizes are given for and who Nobel was. MRS. A. C. BEILL.
Alfred B. Nobel, a Swedish scientist, the inventor of dynamite, etc., dying in 1896, left about \$9,000,000 to found a fund from which five yearly prizes—about \$40,000 each—are given to the five persons who each year have "most contributed to the good of humanity." One prize is given for the most valuable contribution to advance in each of the sciences of physics, chemistry and medicine; a fourth, for the production of the greatest work in literature and the fifth for the promotion of peace in the world.

Measurement of Land.
J. B. Wallace sends a plot of a piece of ground about which he is informed that the area may not be calculated from his figure unless the corners are assumed to be "square," as he gives no value for the angles. If the corners are square, the piece contains 24,925 acres.

The Bright Side of Life

The Wage Slave.
Inquisitive Motorist—"Hey, Bub, what do you get for hoeing those weeds?"
Puck—"Nothin' if I do, an' — if I don't!"

Her Tact.
Jones—"Has she any tact?"
Bones—"Tact" she's the kind of woman who'd send a wrist watch to the Venus of Milo for a Christmas present.—Life.

In a Way.
"Have you kept all your promises to your constituents?"
"Yes," replied Senator Sorghum. "That is to say, I've kept them on file."—Washington Star.

Barred.
English Village Worth discussing possibilities of invasion?—"Well, there can't be no battle in these parts, Jarge, for there ain't no field suitable, as you may say; an' Squire, 'e won't lend 'em the use of 'is park."—Punch.

A Reasonable Excuse.
Smith was summoned as a witness in an aggravated case of assault and battery, and fairly answered every question put to him by the lawyers. Finally the judge turned to the prisoner with a look of surprise.

"You mean to say, sir," severely remarked his judicial ribs, "that you saw the plaintiff punch me?"
"Yes, sir, I saw him throw me to the ground and beaten me with the flat of his hand."

"Yes, sir, Your Honor," was the calm rejoinder of the witness.
"You saw all that," returned the judge with a shocked expression, "and never lifted a hand to help the unfortunate?"
"Yes, sir," answered Smith. "I thought they was takin' pictures for the movies."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

ANY OLD PORT IN A STORM

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

THE TROUBLESOME SPARROW

The English sparrow was introduced into America about sixty years ago, and is now distributed over nearly all of the United States and Southern Canada, says the New York Sun. This rapid dissemination is a result of the bird's hardiness, extraordinary fecundity, diversity of food, aggressive disposition and almost complete immunity from natural enemies.

Ned Dearborn, biologist of the Department of Agriculture, is severe on the English sparrow. He says they are cunning, destructive and filthy, although admitting that sparrows consume quantities of weed seed and in summer numerous insects.

During an investigation of birds that destroy alfalfa weevil in Northern Utah, English sparrows were found to be feeding their nestlings largely on weevil larvae and cutworms, both very injurious to alfalfa. Wherever this bird proves useful it is entitled to protection and encouragement.

Under normal conditions its choice of insects may be unfavorable. Out of 52 English sparrow stomachs examined by the biological department of the Agricultural Department, forty-seven contained noxious insects, fifty held beneficial insects and thirty-one contained insects of practically no importance. The Agricultural Department does not say what was found to the credit or discredit of the other 394 specimens examined. A report on only one-quarter of the specimens examined can hardly be considered satisfactory to earnest people inquiring into this subject.

The English sparrow is condemned for its destruction of cherries, grapes, peaches, pears and flowers of cultivated trees, sprouts and vines. In the garden, the scientists say, sparrows eat seeds as they ripen, nip off tender young vegetables, especially peas and lettuce, as they appear above ground. We have never experienced this trouble, although sparrows are abundant about the garden. They are a nuisance with their muss, building nests in troublesome places, in the gutters on the roof, causing the water to overflow and littering up the building generally, but this is the worst charge we are able to bring against the English sparrow.

Ned Dearborn says the English sparrow reduces the number of some of our most useful and attractive native birds, such as bluebirds, house wrens, purple martins, tree swallows, cliff swallows, etc. He says that the bird destroys their eggs and young, and usurping nesting places. It attacks the robin, wren, red-eyed vireo, catbird and mockingbird, causing them to desert parks and shady streets of towns. Unlike our native birds, whose place it usurps, it has no song, but is noisy and vituperative. It defiles buildings and ornamental trees, shrubs and vines with its excrement and with its bulky nests.

Nowhere is the English sparrow included among the birds protected by law, and as individuals and flocks have an extremely narrow range, each flock occupying one locality to which its activities are chiefly confined, they are easily exterminated. When a place has once been cleared of sparrows it will be some time before it is reoccupied.

English sparrows are good to eat, and their use as a food is recommended because of their nutritive value and as a means of reducing their number. Sparrows feed in close flocks, and when thus assembled a large number may be killed by a charge of shot from a small-bore gun, sixteen or twenty-gauge Parker shotgun. Sparrows can be baited by scattering grain about, shooting the birds and then rebaiting the places. The baiting places should be far enough apart so the birds can be second and third feeding places will not be frightened by the discharge of the gun at the first flock.

In many places traps must be employed where a gun cannot be used or where it is not desirable. Besides being safe, properly designed traps have other advantages. Native birds caught in the traps can be liberated unharmed, and happy birds can be kept alive for food like poultry. In Europe sparrows have been utilized for food for centuries. In captivity the birds must be kept clean, supplied with fresh food apart from the grain, and the grain required to keep them in good condition; bread, oats, wheat, cornmeal mash, lettuce and cabbage will be relished.

To mercifully kill a trapped sparrow place the thumb nail at the base of the skull and dislocate the neck by hard and quick pressure. To dress sparrows cut off the legs, the wings at the outer point and the neck close to the body; strip off the skin, beginning at the neck; make a cut through the body wall extending from the neck along the backbone till the ribs are severed, then around between the legs to the tail, and remove the viscera.

Sparrows may be cooked by any of the methods employed for redbirds or quail, and compare favorably with the

best kinds of small game.

We rarely appreciate game for the food itself, but more often for the name. Several years ago a party of duck hunters arrived tired and hungry at a tavern near the shooting grounds, and where they were to put up for the night. The host had the reputation of setting a splendid table, the food usually consisting of fish or game.

A bird pie was served for dinner, and all agreed that it was delicious, the best quail pie they had ever tasted. After the meal was finished someone ventured to inquire what kind of bird the pie contained, and all were amazed when told he had totally devoured three large blackbird pies. At another time mud hen pies were served, were fine, but no one knew what the pies were made of until the dinner had been voted a big success. So with sparrows. They will be found better eating than most people expect.

In England, sparrows are trapped with a sieve, one end held up by a short stake to which a long string is tied. The trap is baited with bread crumbs, oats or wheat. The birds are permitted to eat the bait, and upon the wire mesh are gathered under the stake when the cord is pulled, removing the stake and allowing the trap to fall over the birds gathered under the sieve.

Barb Wire Entanglements

As has been learned from the reports from the war, barb wire entanglements have been freely resorted to by both sides for protecting their positions, and in a general way it is known that these consist in a number of irregular lines of strong posts set solidly in the ground with a maze of lines of barbed wire strung between them. How these obstacles are overcome is explained by a military expert in the Scientific American. Some of the many schemes that have been tried are described as follows:

Experiments have been made in removing whole sections of wire at once by means of a rake, to which a wire rope is fastened. This is thrown over an obstacle, and thirty men pull upon the rope. Thus a section eleven and one-half feet wide and sixteen and one-half feet high is torn out. In order to reduce the height of the wire, a pass through a barbed trap (the glint of the wire is usually concealed by a bank of earth) some military engineers have thought that it is a waste of precious minutes to cut or tear down, and that it is more rational to surmount the obstacle in some other way. Structures of boards, ladders and planks are thrown over the wire, according to their ideas, and upon the platform thus made the men can press forward. Boards eight feet long, nine inches wide and three-quarters of an inch thick are fastened together by means of three crosspieces, leaving a clear space of three inches between the boards. The weight of the double board is thirty-two pounds, and sixteen of them are employed, each carried by a single man. To place the wire double boards on the wire net required about 140 seconds, as actual tests have shown, and it takes seventeen men six minutes to pass over the boards. As a time-saving expedient the method is hardly a success over that of wire-cutting.

Nor are ladders much better. In some experiments, conducted in England, ten ladders, with nine rungs each, were used. Each ladder was twelve feet long and twenty-two inches wide, weighed thirty-two pounds, and was carried by a single man. The ladders were laid down in 155 seconds, and six minutes and ten seconds were required by seventeen men to pick their way from rung to rung.

That this idea of surmounting an obstacle, rather than cutting a way through it, is not practicable, is better shown by the experiments which have been made with bags of cloth and wire. Twelve bags, each eight feet long and four and one-half feet wide (measured in the raps can be liberated unharmed, and happy birds can be kept alive for food like poultry. In Europe sparrows have been utilized for food for centuries. In captivity the birds must be kept clean, supplied with fresh food apart from the grain, and the grain required to keep them in good condition; bread, oats, wheat, cornmeal mash, lettuce and cabbage will be relished.

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Surely Careless.

The German Crown Prince must be very careless. He is reported dead almost as often as Rastal, the majordomo of the Emperor Menelik used to be.